Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 01421 210931Z ACTION EUR-12

R 181045Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3406 INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE AMCONSUL MUNICH AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH

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BELGRADE FOR CSCE DELEGATION

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PL, PINT, SHUM

SUBJ: ALTERNATIVE UNIVERSITIES IN POLAND

1. ACCORDING TO A WESTERN JOURNALIST, A GROUP OF INTELLECTUALS FORMED A "SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE" ON FEB 5 AND ISSUED A MANIFESTO SIGNED BY OVER 50 PEOPLE DECLARING THEIR INTENTION TO LECTURE STUDENTS ON SUBJECTS SO HEAVILY CENSORED THAT CONVENTIONAL LECTURES ON THEM ARE VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS. THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES WLADYSLAW BIENKOWSKI, ANDRZEJ KIJOWSKI, ADAM MICHNIK, AND STANISLAW BARANCZAK.

2. THE JOURNALIST SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING VERSION OF THE STORY WHICH HAS GAINED SOME ATTENTION IN THE WESTERN PRESS: ON FEB 10, AS MICHNIK ADDRESSED A GROUP OF STUDENTS IN AN APARTMENT IN KRAKOW, POLICE BROKE UP THE GATHERING, DISPERSED THE STUDENTS WITH GEAR GAS AND ROUGHED UP MICHNIK. ON FEB 14, POLICH IN POZNAN TOOK BARANLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CZAK INTO CUSTODY WHILE HE WAITED AT THE TRAIN STATION FOR THE ARRIVAL OF MICHNIK, WHO PLANNED TO DELIVER ANOTHER LECTURE. WHEN MICHNIK ARRIVED IN POZNAN, HE WAS DETAINED BY POLICE, THEN FORCED TO RETURN BY TRAIN TO WARSAW. KSS/KOR SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE CSCE BELGRADE CONFERENCE TO REPORT THE INCIDENTS.

3. THE JOURNALIST SAID ANOTHER LECTURE WILL BE GIVEN IN WARSAW ON FEB 20. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHO WILL SPEAK OR WHERE IT WILL TAKE PLACE.

4. STEFAN STANISZEWSKI, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND CULTURAL COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ADVISED THE JOURNALIST, WHO CAME TO THE MFA TO EXTEND HIS VISA, TO LAY OFF STORIES ABOUT DISSIDENTS. STANISZEWSKI, THE JOURNALIST REPORTED, WAS VISIBILY NERVOUS WHEN HE MENTIONED THE SUBJECT OF ALTERNATE UNIVERSITIES.

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